



Congressman Bud Cramer

November 2007 E-Newsletter

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I hope you have enjoyed the start of this year's holiday season. On Thanksgiving, my family and I were able to take time to reflect on the year's blessings. I hope you have been able to do so as well. As we continue to celebrate the holidays, I encourage you to keep your thoughts and prayers with our soldiers and their families who are unable to be together due to deployment overseas.

Bud Cramer

Appropriations Update

The U.S. House of Representatives this month resumed its consideration on the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations bills. Specifically, the House considered conference agreements for the Defense, Labor-HHS, Transportation, and Military Construction bills. The Defense Bill was signed into law on November 13th.

Funding highlights from the final FY 2008 Defense conference agreement include \$8.7 billion for the Missile Defense Agency. This total included \$2.258 billion for the Ground-Based Midcourse (GMD) Defense system, \$342 million for the Kinetic Energy Interceptor, \$231.5 million for the Multiple Kill Vehicle, and \$208 million for the Patriot Pure Fleet program. The conference agreement also included \$1.101 billion for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program. The United Launch Alliance in Decatur is the nation's primary provider of EELV vehicles. [[more](#)]

The final Defense conference agreement also included funding to support the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as their families at home. It provided a 3.5 percent pay raise for America's warfighters, funding for body armor and other protective equipment, and \$2.6 billion for additional counselors, teachers, and child care providers to help support military families stressed by repeated and extended deployments. [[more](#)]

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND
OTHER NEWS ITEMS PLEASE VISIT:**

<http://cramer.house.gov>

New Immigration Legislation

Representative Cramer announced this month that he and a bipartisan coalition of members introduced enforcement-only legislation to reduce illegal immigration in the United States.

The Secure America with Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act seeks to reduce illegal immigration by:

- Increasing the amount of Border Patrol Agents.
- Increasing the amount of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents.
- Increasing the number of available beds for detaining illegal immigrants.
- Employing new technology, such as the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and satellite technology, to help monitor the border.
- Requiring the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and the Internal Revenue Service to share information and work together to develop a way to identify illegal immigrants living and working in our communities.

[[Click Here to Learn More on this Legislation](#)]



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News From Washington

Representative Cramer introduced two bills this month to improve federal opportunities for small businesses in North Alabama. One of the bills proposed by Representative Cramer increases funding available under the Small Business Innovation Research program. His other bill would allow small businesses in areas adjacent to Historically Underutilized Business Zone to qualify for HUBZone benefits.

“My legislation gives Congress the opportunity to encourage small businesses to grow with innovative policies and programs,” said Cramer. [\[more\]](#)

The House approved this month an extension of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program through FY 2008. This program provides funding to support commercial air service at small airports across the country, including the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport. The House-approved FY 2008 Transportation Appropriations Act included \$110 million for the EAS program in 2008.

Cramer said, “This bill helps ensure that the Shoals can continue to support commercial air service.” [\[more\]](#)

News From the Fifth District



Pictured on the left, Representative Cramer joined law enforcement officials from Jackson, Madison, and Morgan Counties this month to discuss local efforts to combat illegal immigration. During this briefing, Cramer discussed his efforts in Congress to help ease the burden illegal immigration places on law enforcement.

Cramer said, “It is critical that Congress moves forward to find sensible solutions to strengthen our border and curb the flow of illegal immigrants entering this country.” [\[more\]](#)

House Approves Child Internet Protection Legislation

“A major concern from child advocates across the country is the ease that sexual predators can use the internet to lure children,” said Cramer. “These bills will help give parents additional confidence that the internet can be safe for their kids by providing law enforcement with new tools to fight against online sexual predators.”

Among the legislation approved by the House this month include:

The Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators (KIDS) Act, which would require sexual predators to register any email address, instant message address, or other internet profiles that a convicted sex offender uses to communicate over the internet.

The Providing Resources, Officers and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to (PROTECT) Our Children Act, which would authorize increased funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force program.

[\[Click Here to Learn More About These and Other Child Safety Bills Approved by the House\]](#)